

## THE PANAMA CANAL.

It is evidently the purpose of the administration to enforce the Monroe doctrine in relation to this great improvement, not for the purpose of preventing the construction of the canal, but to prevent the continent being brought into any European entanglements. It would never do for this country to admit that European powers have the right to guarantee neutrality on this side of the globe. The United States can give sufficient guarantees to establish the neutrality of that canal. As well might the United States guarantee the neutrality of the Suez canal as for the various European powers to assume to protect the Panama canal. The people of this country will justly and support the administration in enforcing its views upon this question.

A Washington dispatch says that the President has directed the State to answer to the resolution of October 14th, inquiring what steps the government had taken to protect the rights of the United States in the Panama canal. Secretary Blaine, in his answer to the President, reports that, having learned since the adjournment of Congress of the rejection by Colombia of the protocol negotiated by the representative of the United States, and being informed by the Minister of the United States at Bogotá that the government of Colombia, by its public acts, was avowing its desire to terminate the treaty of 1846 and appeal to the powers of Europe for a joint guaranty of the neutrality of the isthmus and the sovereignty of Colombia, the department addressed a letter to the President, in which it was recommended that the President should direct the State to answer to the resolution of October 14th, inquiring what steps the government had taken to protect the rights of the United States in the Panama canal.

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In 1846 the memorable and important treaty was negotiated and signed between the United States and New Granada, now the United States of Colombia. By the forty-fifth article of that treaty, in exchange for certain concessions made to the United States, we guaranteed "positively and efficaciously to protect the neutrality of the isthmus of Panama. More than a third of a century ago this government took every step that is deemed requisite in the premises. The necessity was foreseen and amply provided for by laws and regulations which have been the actual exercise of power."

The Panama Canal, after having and tearing its hair and informing the public that its personal relations with the authorities at the Agency are such that it would have had no objection to the following action of the matter:

The difficulty seems to date from the Indian Festival held at the Banderas, about six miles from the canal, last week. The dances, races, etc., were held with the permission of Agent Wheeler, and were attended by a large number of Indians in the declaration that everything was orderly, and not one Indian was under the influence of liquor during the Festival. The Agent visited the tribes during the Festival, and on a certain occasion directed some of the leaders to lead the tribes together and to take them to the Agency. The Indians refused to inter their games, etc., for this purpose, and the Agent left, much annoyed. There had been a growing discontent as to various arbitrary measures adopted by the Agent, who seems to make the mistake of trying to make the Indians too good, too quickly. This position is correct in the main, and the Agent should be somewhat slow to do this. The Indians are dissatisfied because he refuses to allow them to retain their money, and the President proposes to make ex-Senator Howe Secretary of the Interior. It seems to be a settled purpose to place Howe in the Cabinet.

At the Washington newspaper correspondents who have not had all the influence they desired with First Assistant Postmaster General are now taking revenge.

FRANK HERRICK, of the Burlington Hawkeye, succeeds Judge Tyler as First Assistant Postmaster General. He is now Postmaster at Burlington, Iowa.

JACOB FOLGER, of New York, takes the Secretaryship of the Treasury.

With the coming in of Arthur St. John's Church, in Washington, is again attended by the President. The time of Lincoln had been so constantly used by the Chief Executive as to be called the Presidential Church.

President Arthur has nominated Mahone's man for postmaster at Lynchburg, Virginia. Mahone points to this as an indication that he has the support of the administration. Probably Arthur thinks something that promises to break the solid Bourbon control of the South should be fostered.

The President has reappointed Postmaster General James, whose term of office expired by law on the 10th instant.

It is announced that the President proposes to continue the crusade against polygamy, inaugurated by Garfield.

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